

JAMES PATTERSON

MAX RIDE

FIRST FLIGHT



BENNETT
SANCHEZ
PENNINGTON
SANZ

MARVEL 003

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MAX RIDE

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MAXIMUM RIDE doesn't remember much about her past.

She remembers **THE SCHOOL**, a secret lab where **SCIENTISTS** experimented on her and her friends--Fang, Nudge, Iggy, Gasman, and Angel. She remembers the **ERASERS**, the half-human, half-wolf monsters who kept her prisoner. Most of all she remembers **JEB**, the man who gave his life to help **THE FLOCK** escape and find a life of peace...

Recently the Erasers found the Flock, destroyed their home and kidnapped Angel, so Max and the others set out to rescue her.

Not knowing the Erasers were actually tracking them, the Flock was again ambushed. Only Nudge and Fang managed to escape, while Max, Iggy, and Gazzy were captured and drugged.

Later, Max awoke in a cage only to discover that Jeb is still alive and working for The School!

MARGUERITE
BENNETT

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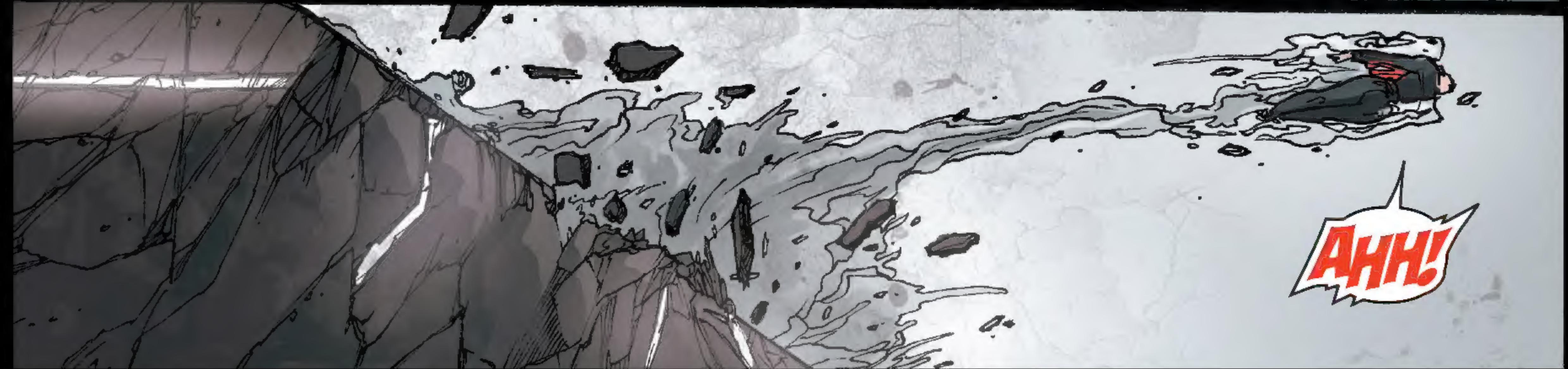
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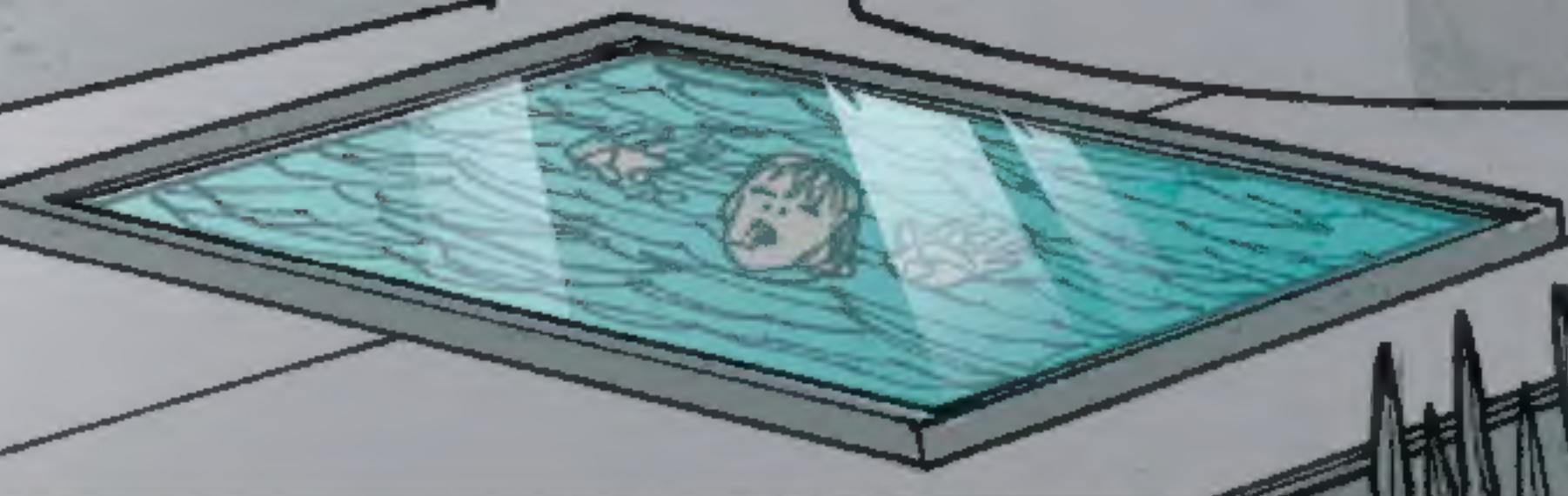
DAY ONE.

AND THEN
I KNOW--
THIS ISN'T
TORTURE.

THIS IS
A TEST.

THIS IS THE
SCHOOL.

THIS IS THE WHITE
METAL HELL WHERE
MY FLOCK AND FAMILY
WERE CREATED--BY
JEB BATCHELDER.



IGGY!
HIT THE
DECK!
GAZZY?

OH JEEZ.
BE GLAD YOU
CAN'T SEE, IGGY. I
THINK I'M GOING
TO BE SICK.

CRUNCH

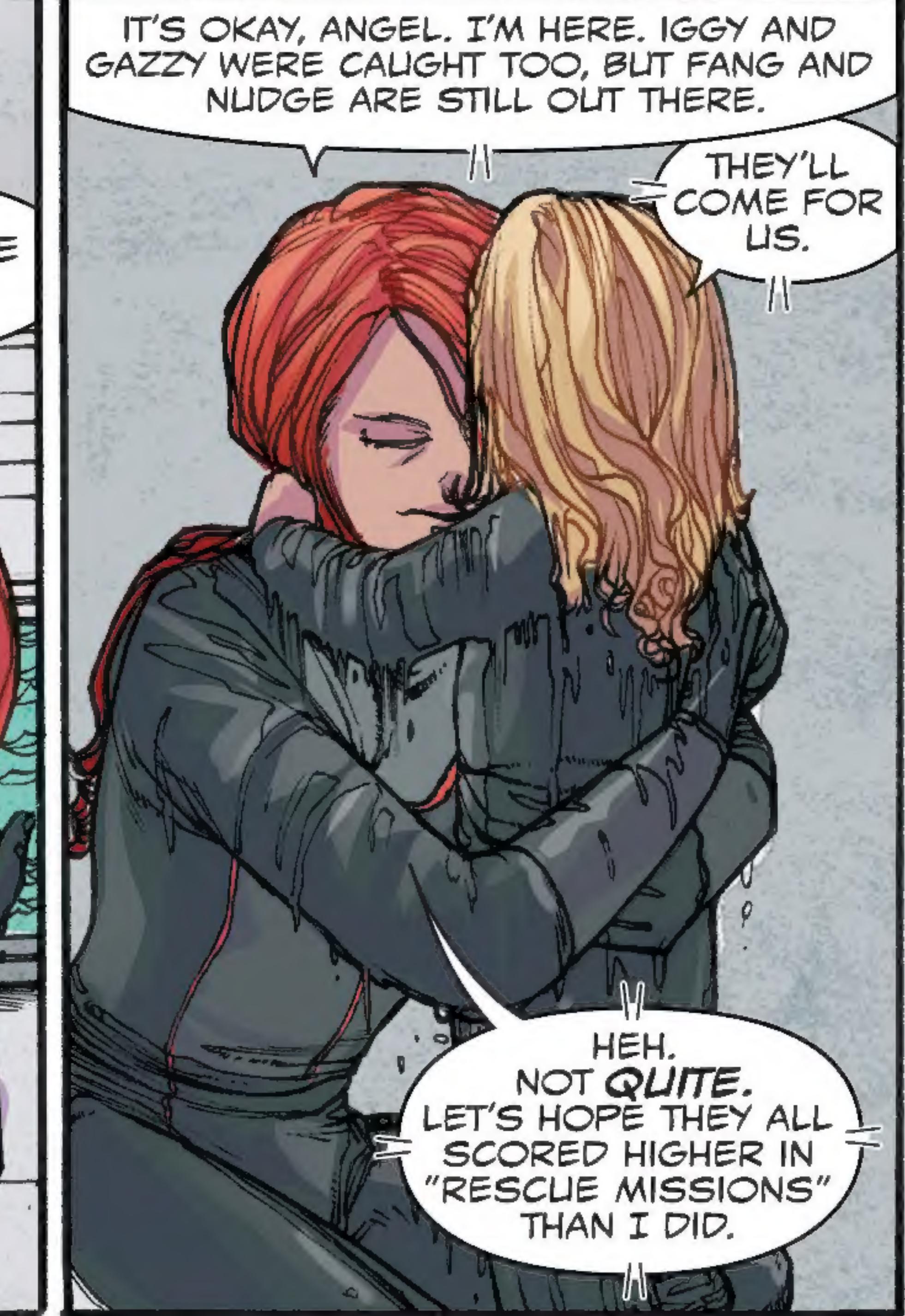
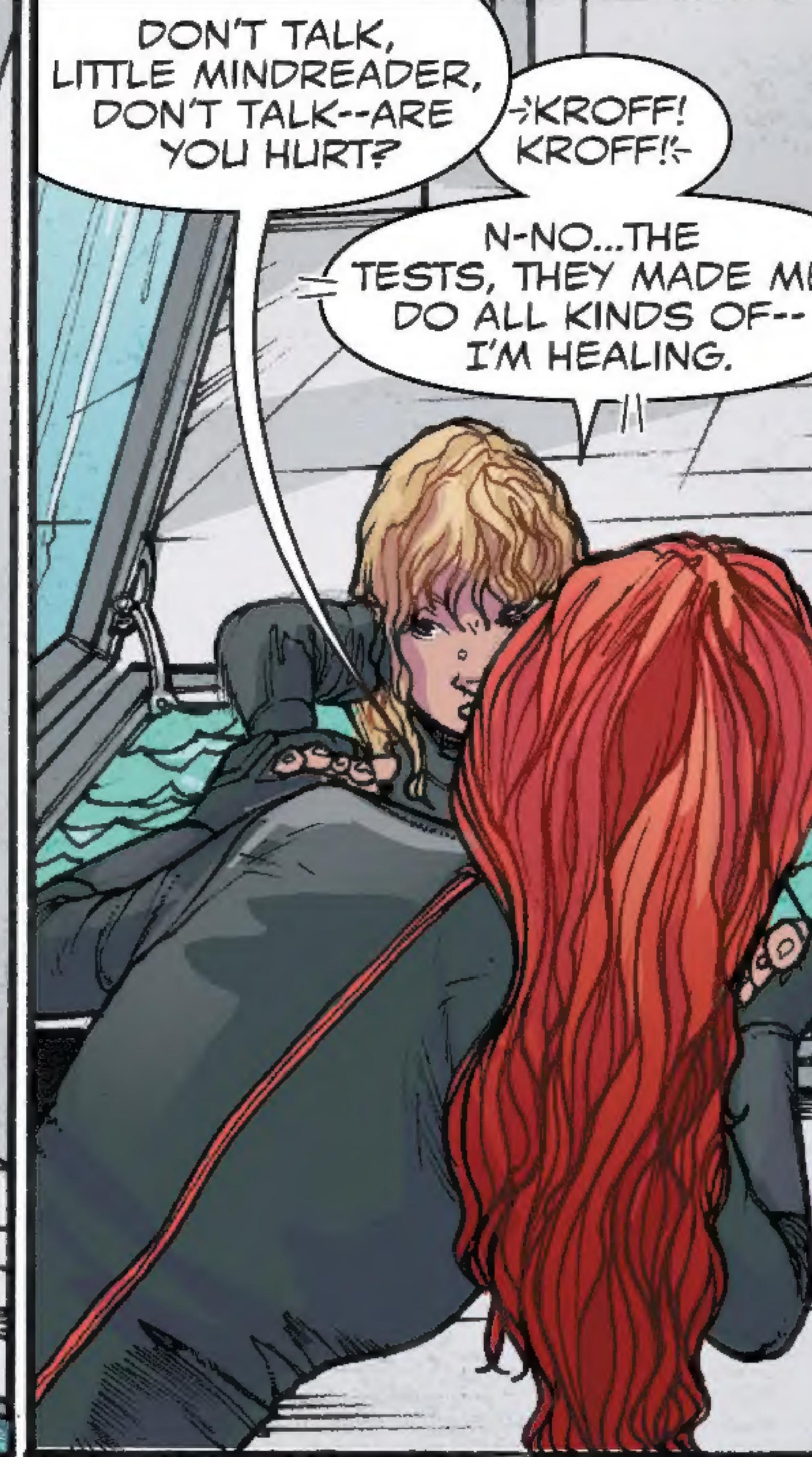
ANGEL!
MAX!
CAN'T
BREATHE,
CAN'T--

DON'T TALK,
LITTLE MINDREADER,
DON'T TALK--ARE
YOU HURT?
KROFF!
KROFF!

IT'S OKAY, ANGEL. I'M HERE. IGGY AND
GAZZY WERE CAUGHT TOO, BUT FANG AND
NUDGE ARE STILL OUT THERE.

THEY'LL
COME FOR
US.

HEH.
NOT QUITE.
LET'S HOPE THEY ALL
SCORED HIGHER IN
"RESCUE MISSIONS"
THAN I DID.



DAY TWO.

ANGEL,
CAN YOU HEAR
WHAT THE SCHOOL
SCIENTISTS ARE
THINKING?

THEY'RE...
PLEASED.
THEY THINK WE'RE
PROGRESSING,

DAY THREE.

WHAT
ABOUT
JEB?
JEB IS...
JEB IS...
SILENT.
JUST
WHITE NOISE,
MAXIMUM.

DAY FOUR.

HOW COULD JEB DO
THIS TO US?! HOW IS
HE EVEN HERE?

WE FOUND HIS BODY
IN THE GORGE BY
OUR HOUSE. WE BURIED
HIM. WHO WAS THAT, IF
NOT HIM? A CLONE?

DID HE EVER EVEN
CARE ABOUT US, OR
WAS HELPING US ESCAPE
PART OF SOME ELABORATE
PLAN? SOME TEST?

ANGEL?
YEAH?

DAY FIVE.

CAN
YOU GET
A MESSAGE
TO IGGY AND
GAZZY?

TELL
THEM
EVERYTHING
WILL BE
OK...
TELL
THEM...I'VE
GOT A
PLAN.

IN TRUTH, I
GOT NOTHING.

ANGEL, FANG, NUDGE,
IGGY, AND GAZZY...THEY'RE
COUNTING ON ME.

IT'S UP TO
ME TO TAKE
CARE OF
THEM.

BUT I HAVE NO IDEA THE
DEPTHES TO WHICH JEB AND THE
SCIENTISTS MIGHT SINK TO TEST
THE LIMITS OF OUR ABILITIES--

WAIT--
THAT'S IT!

ANGEL? YOU
AWAKE?

SORRY TO
WAKE YOU. CAN
YOU TRY TO FEEL
NUDGE AND FANG?

YOU MEAN,
OUTSIDE THE
SCHOOL? I'VE
NEVER BEEN
ABLE TO REACH
THAT FAR.

TRY.
THEY'VE
GOT TO BE
CLOSE--

MAX!
I CAN FEEL
THEM! THEY'RE
IN THE DESERT,
THEY JUST
DON'T KNOW
HOW TO GET
TO US--

LISTEN
CAREFULLY
AND TELL THEM
EXACTLY
WHAT I
SAY.
THEY TO
NEED TO
FOLLOW MY
EVERY WORD...

DAY SIX.

AE-1 IS HOLDING UP BEAUTIFULLY IN COMBAT. THE TACTICAL SUIT'S KEVLAR WEAVE IS IDEAL--

THE SPECIMEN IS ABLE TO ENJOY A FULL RANGE OF MOTION WITHOUT THE FEAR OF AN ERASER PUNCTURING HER LUNGS.

AND WE NEVER LOSE OUT ON OUR INVESTMENT, YOU SEE.

INVESTMENTS, ARE WE?



WEAPONS, EXPERIMENTS, FREAKS OF NATURE--

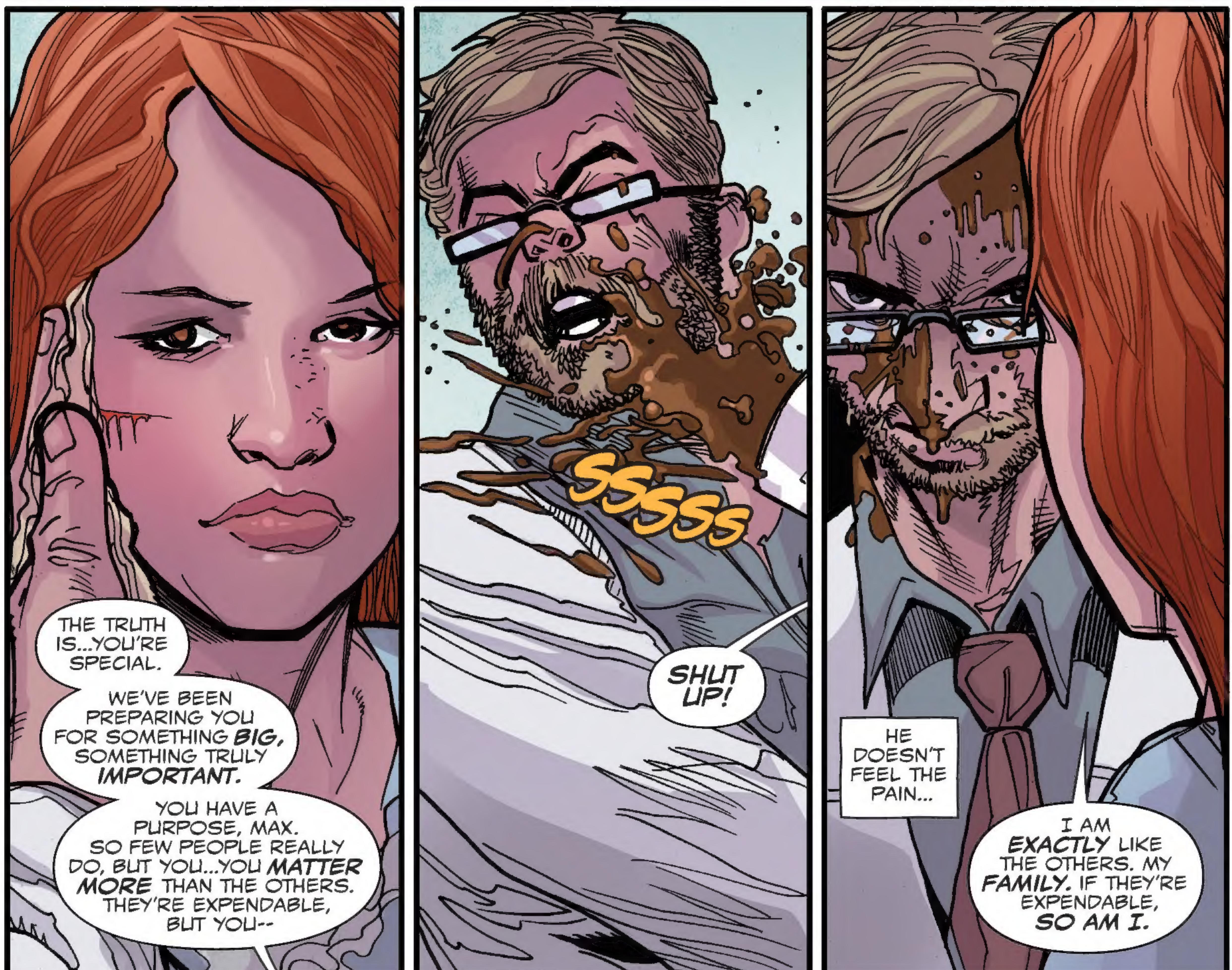
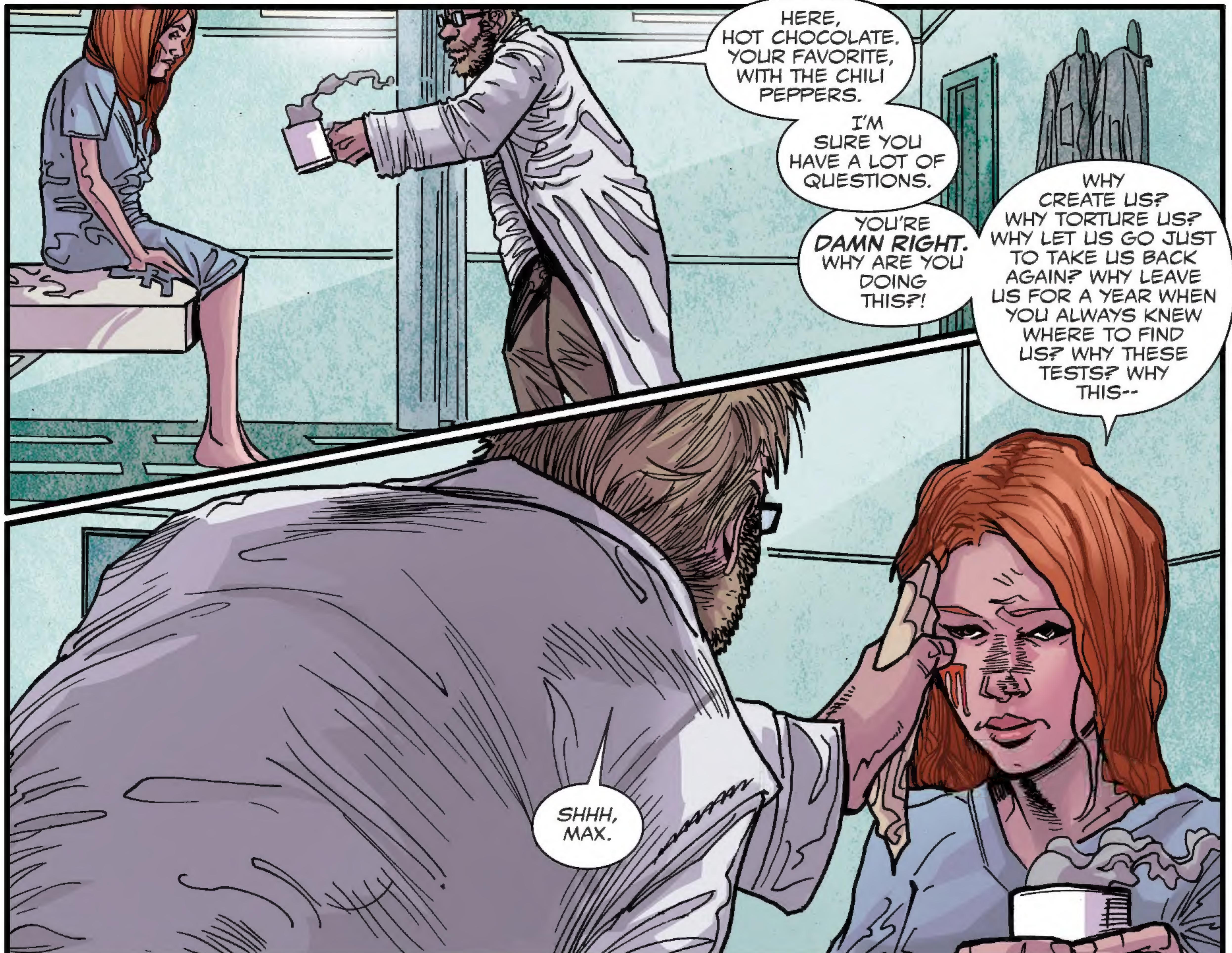
WE'LL PAY YOU BACK ON YOUR INVESTMENT.

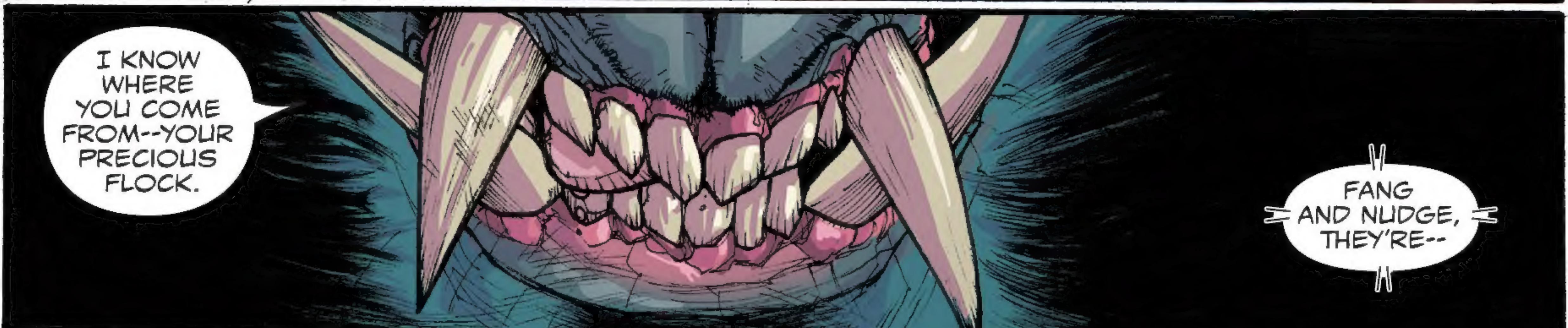
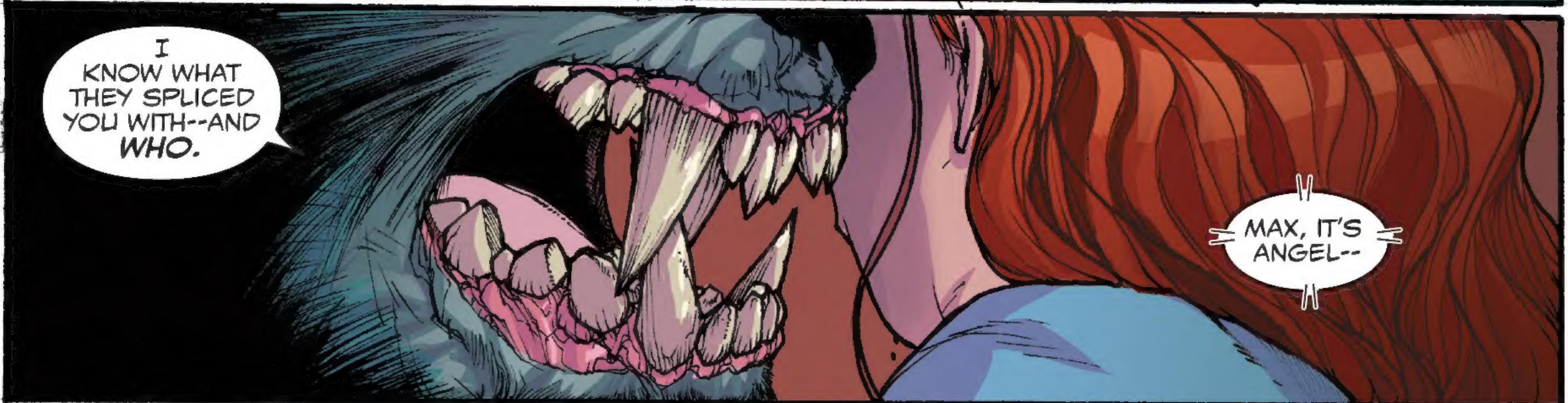
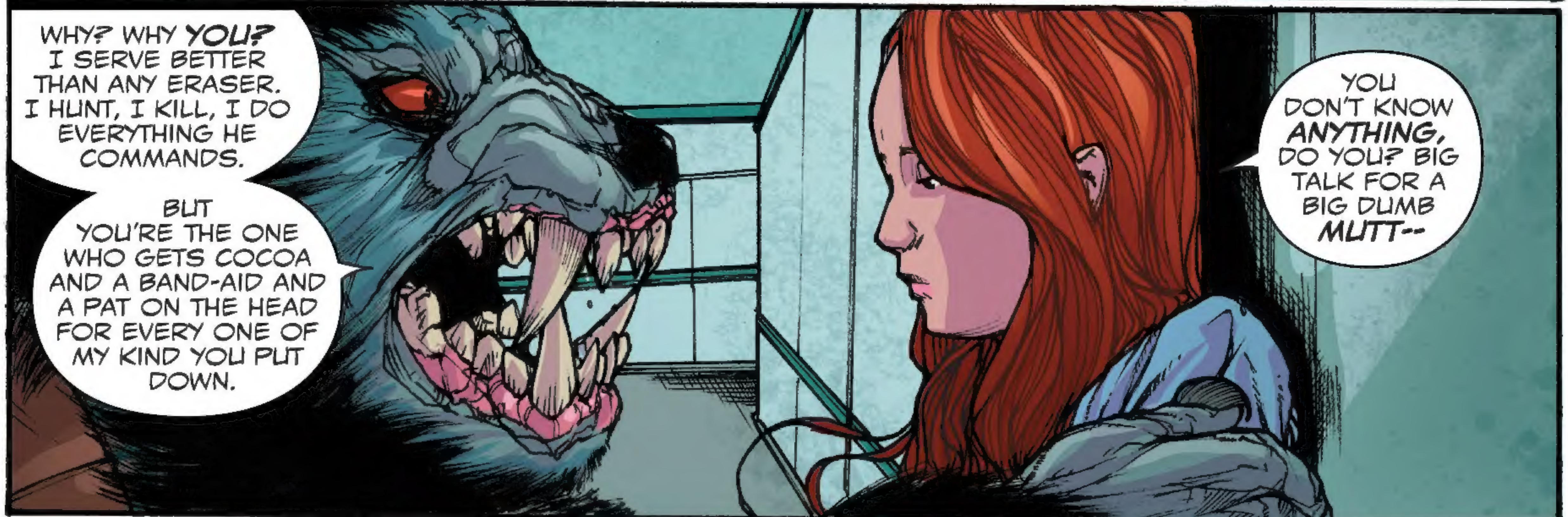
WE'LL PAY YOU BACK IN SPADES.

FANG COULD'VE MADE A REALLY GOOD "WE'RE GONNA BURY YOU" PUN OUT OF THAT, I BET.

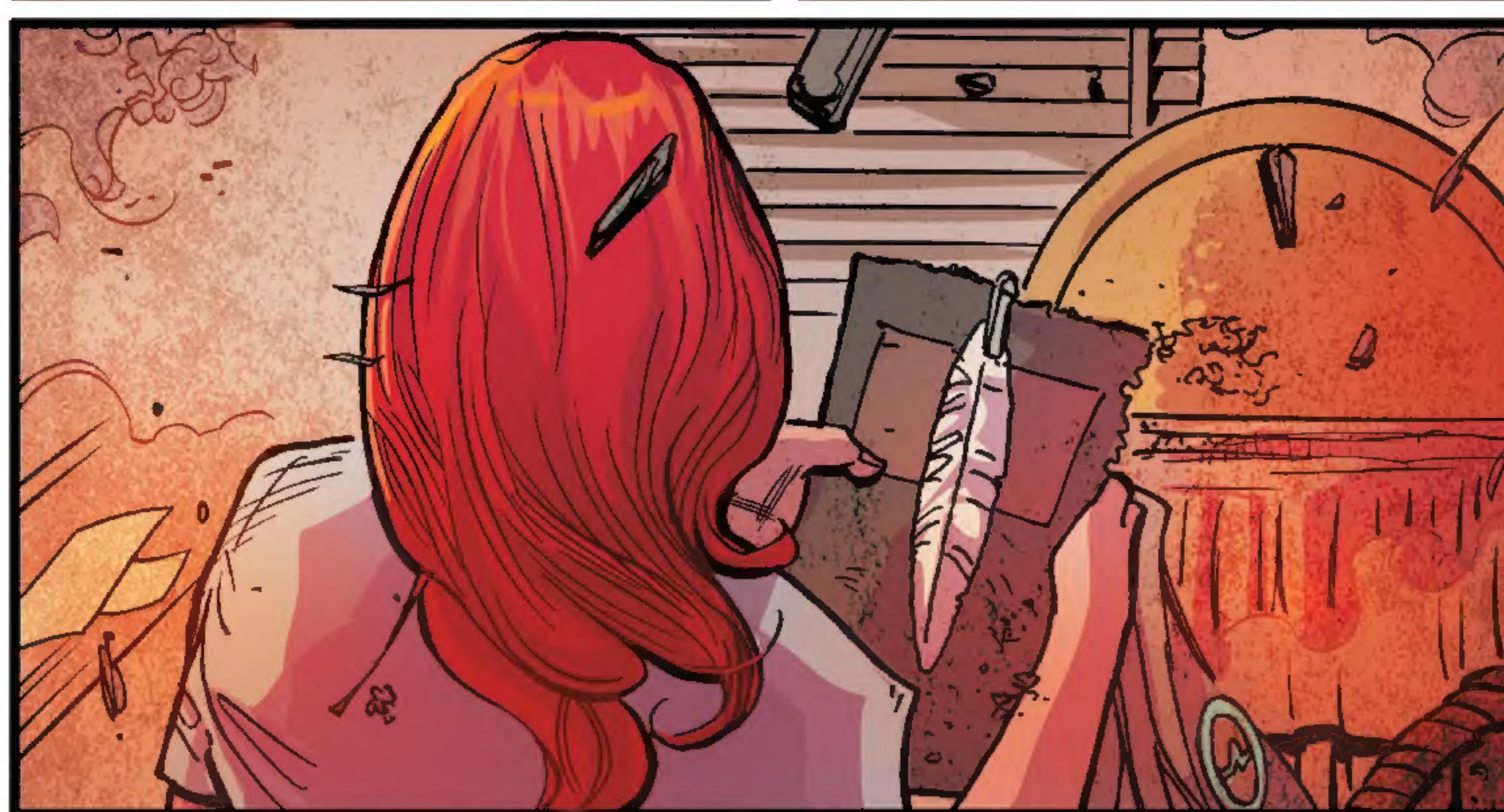
MAXIMUM. A WORD?

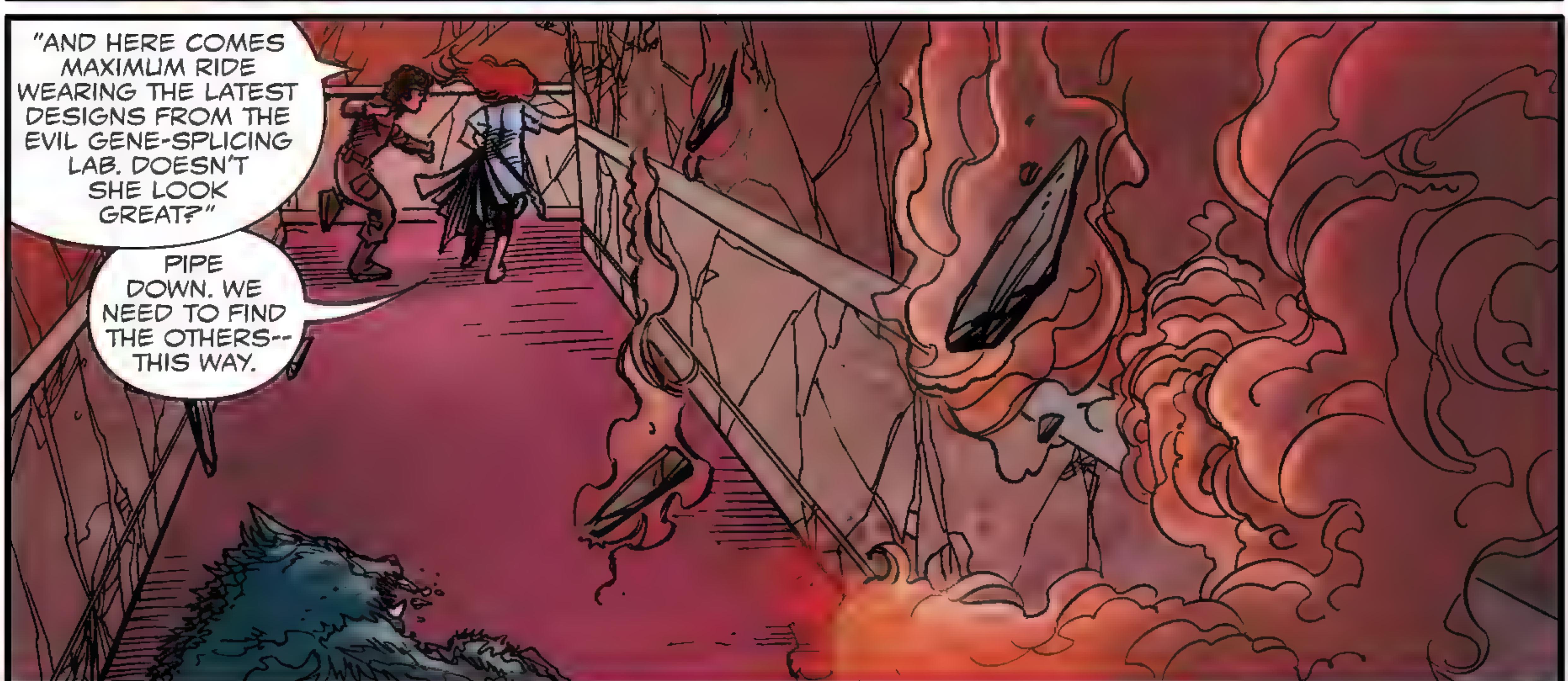


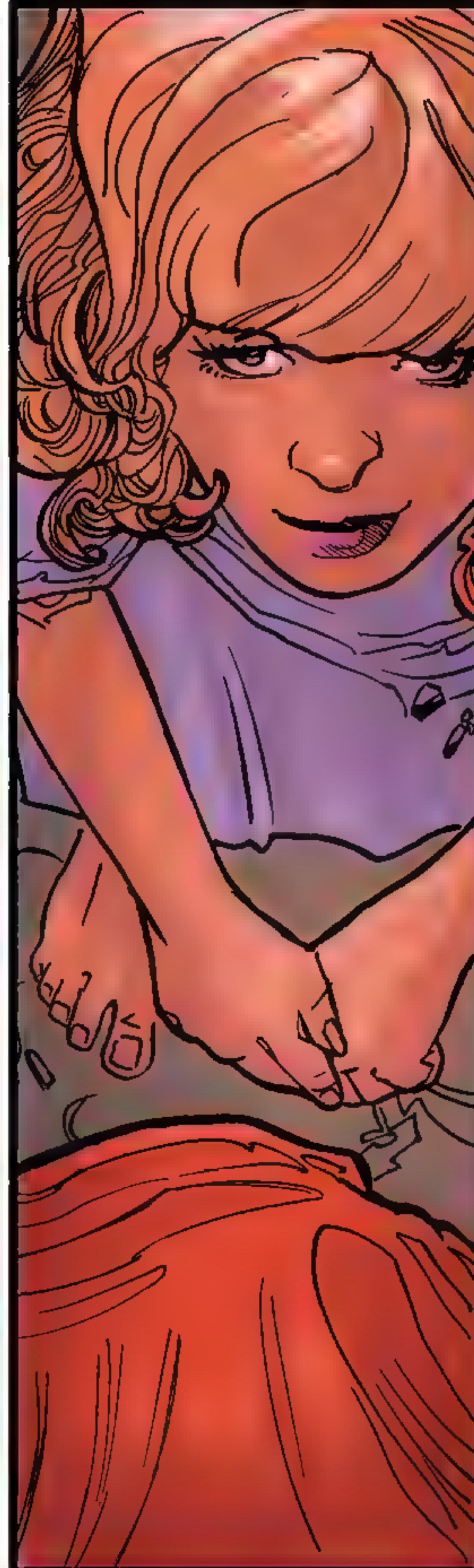








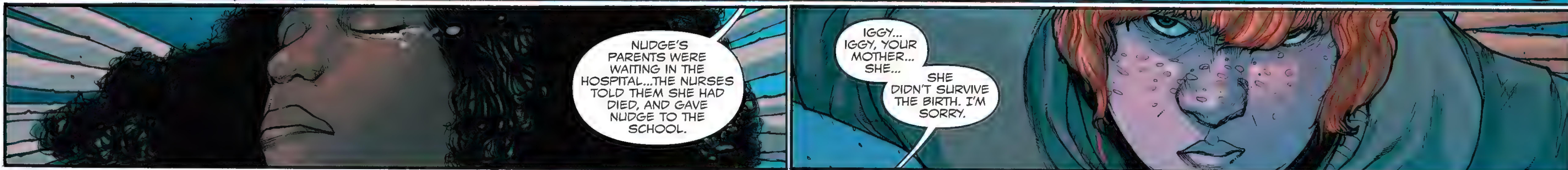
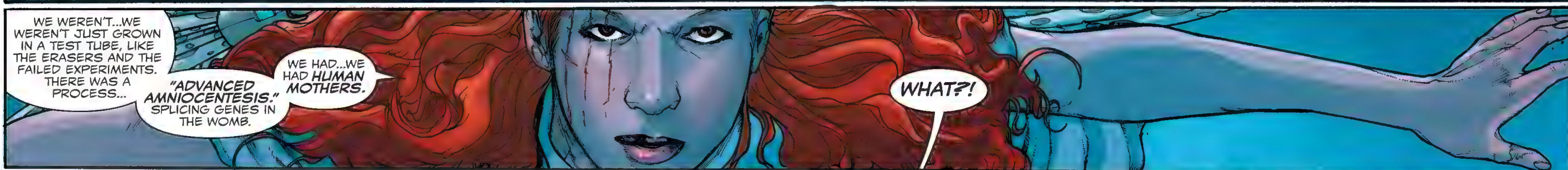




MAXIMUM!
COME BACK!

YOU
WERE RIGHT,
MAX!
IT
WAS ALL A
TEST!
LET ME
EXPLAIN!

YOU'VE
GOT TO
SAVE THE
WORLD!



I DID LEARN
ONE THING
THOUGH...

WHEREVER THAT
FILE WAS ISSUED, IT
DIDN'T COME FROM
THE SCHOOL.

IT CAME
FROM NEW
YORK CITY.

WHERE EVERY
RUNAWAY HEADS
EVENTUALLY.

TIME
TO FIND OUR
DESTINY.

AND, YOU,
KNOW, SIGHT-
SEEING.

IN A
WORD.

IT'S SO
PRETTY!

AND
SO WEIRD,
NO ONE EVEN
GIVES YOU THE
STINKEYE. I BET
I COULD POP
MY WINGS
AND--

DON'T,
GASMAN. THAT
WOULD--

MAAAX...

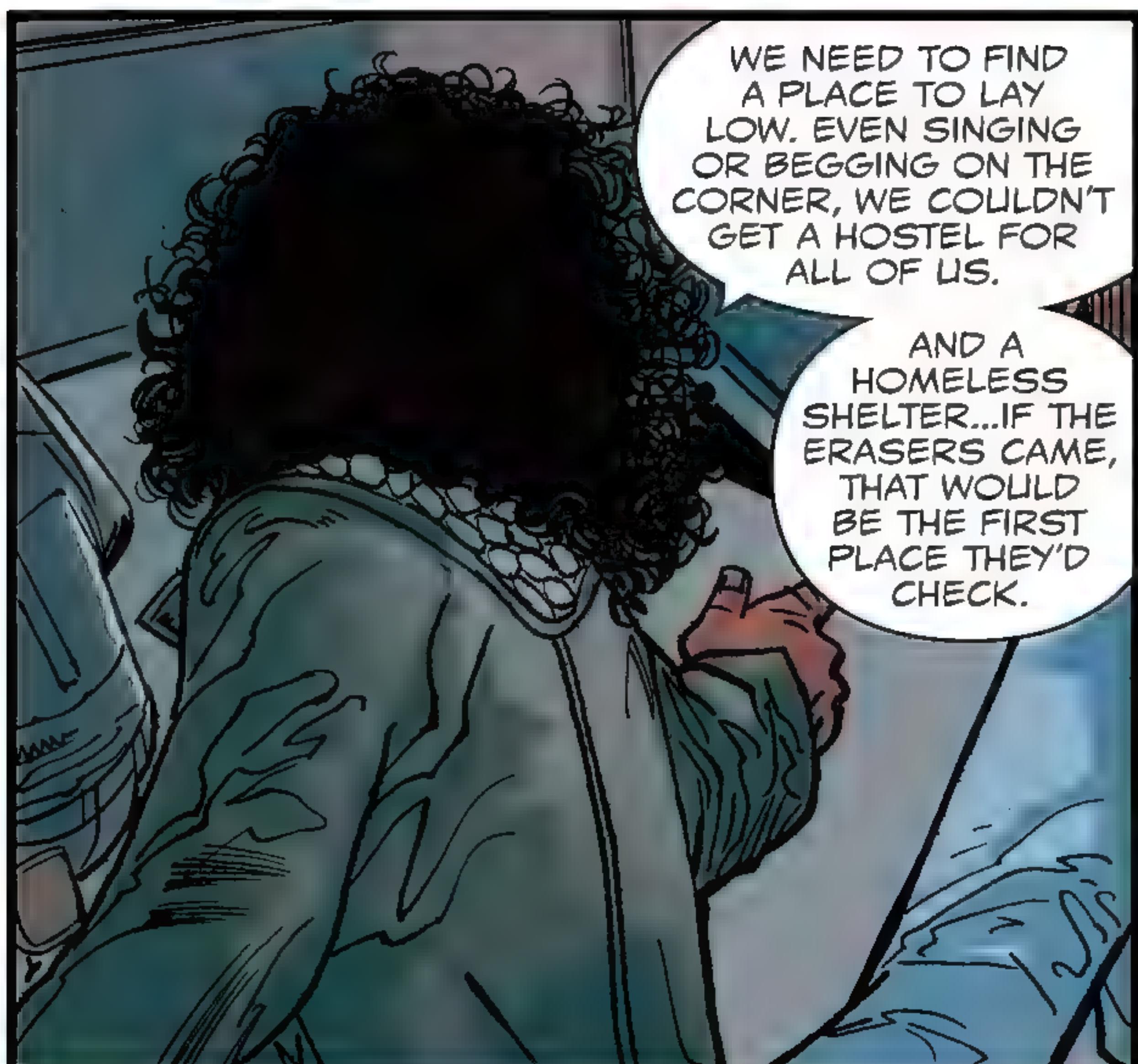
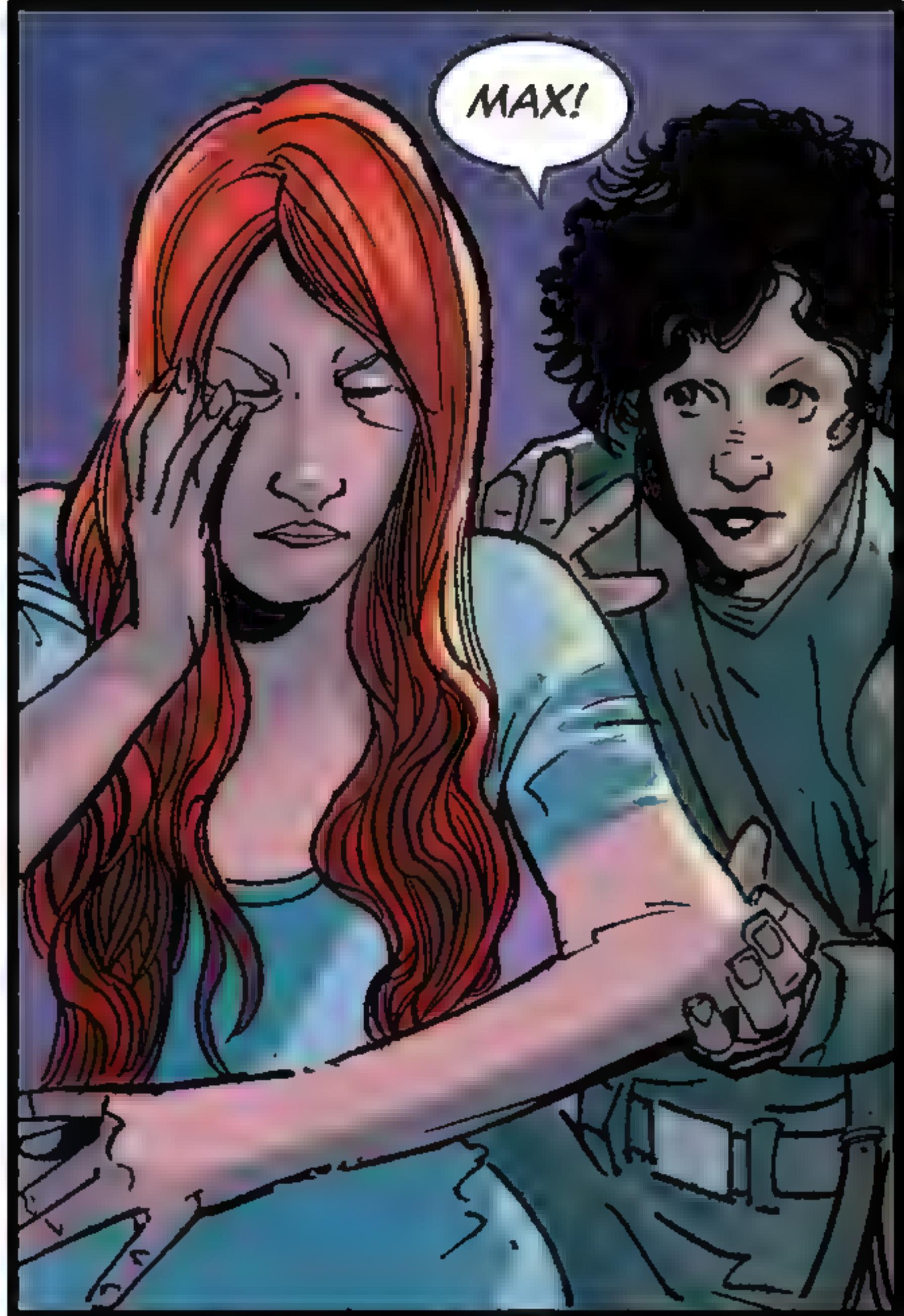
HUH?

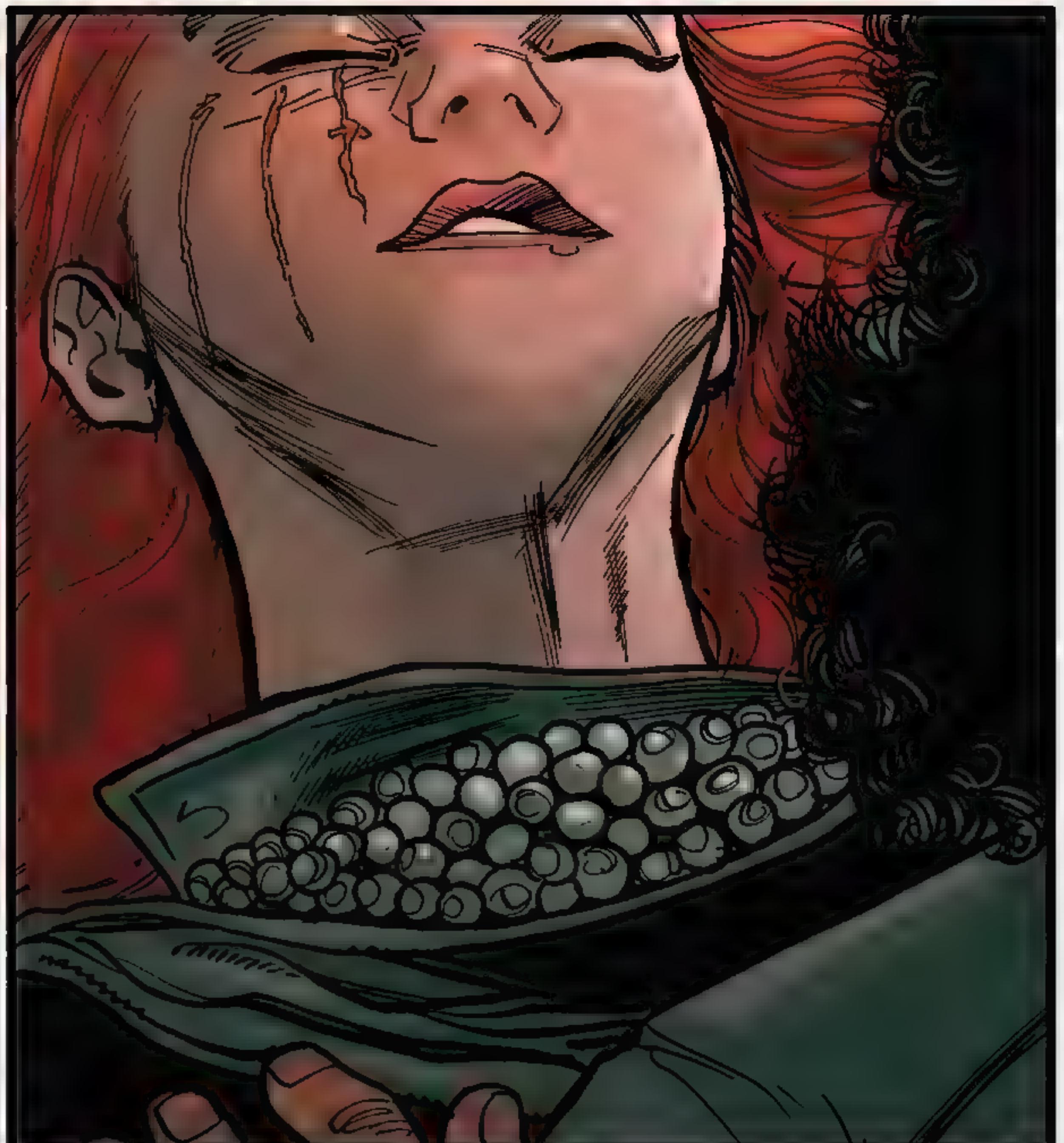
WHAT...
THE HECK.

MAAAX...


GUYS,
I DON'T...

I DON'T
FEEL SO...









YOU'RE
SPECIAL,
MAXIMUM

SAVE
US

MAXIMUM
RIDE

SÁLVANOS

YOU
MATTER
MORE

انل ظفح

SAUVE-
NOUS

SAVE
THE WORLD,
MAX!

спаси
нас

SAVE
THEM

私たちを救う

SAVE
US

SAVE

SAVE

SAVE THE
WORLD!

TO BE CONTINUED!

Issue #4



